

serious and how wide spread food allergies are in this country. One in every 13 children in the United States is affected by a life-threatening food allergy. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergy reactions send someone to the emergency room every 3 minutes.

The rising prevalence of food allergies is an important public health issue that is already felt in schools, restaurants, and workplaces across the country. According to the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease, food allergies cause 30,000 cases of anaphylaxis and more than 200 deaths every year. We need to support research to develop new therapies and understanding to ultimately prevent and cure food allergies.

As the number of kids living with dangerous and in some cases deadly food allergy attacks at school has increased, some States and cities have responded by improving access to epinephrine auto-injectors as an important strategy to respond safely and quickly when students experience anaphylaxis. While many children with known food allergies are permitted to bring their epinephrine auto-injectors to school, 25 percent of epinephrine administrations in schools involve individuals without a previously known allergy. Many students who will need epinephrine have no history of food allergies and therefore do not carry epinephrine. Further, schools provide a setting where children are exposed to new foods that may trigger severe allergy attacks. Therefore, the decision for schools to stock their own epinephrine can be lifesaving.

I commend the state of Illinois for being a leader in this fight and passing legislation in 2011 to allow schools to stock emergency epinephrine auto-injectors. Last Congress, I worked with my colleague, Senator KIRK, to introduce legislation that would encourage states to require schools to stock epinephrine and to allow trained designated personnel to administer epinephrine in an emergency.

My hope is that Food Allergy Awareness Week can help the public to appreciate the extent of the problem and, importantly, the severity of the disease. It is a health threat that affects every race, age, income group and geographic area, and is growing at a frightening pace. What the public increasingly needs to understand is that this is not simply an inconvenient condition. As the tragic deaths of children each year show, it is frequently a life-threatening disease. Food Allergy Awareness Week is a first step to a better understanding and a greater commitment to our response.

BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a group of American workers celebrating an impressive anniversary this month.

On July 1, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act into law and set the Nation on a course to complete the transcontinental railroad.

Less than a year later, in 1863, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen was founded to represent the thousands of individuals working to build one of the largest infrastructure projects in the history of this country.

In the century and a half since, the rail industry has served as the lifeblood of rural America, a critical player in our Nation's transportation network, and as one of the largest private employers in the United States.

My home State of Illinois, both then and now, has relied heavily on strong rail infrastructure to propel us forward. From my hometown of East St. Louis and across our State, railroads have written our history.

As one of the first States in the union to embrace freight rail and rail travel, we saw Chicago grow, spoke by spoke and mile after magnificent mile, into the metropolis it is today. And with more lines of track radiating in more directions than anywhere else in the Nation, it's hard to imagine our great city without its railroads.

Even today, we are continuing our long tradition with the construction of a high-speed rail network that is both innovative and important to Illinois' economy and future competitiveness. But without the workers who construct, operate and maintain it, that high-speed network likely would not be possible.

One hundred-fifty years after its birth, the Brotherhood's 55,000 active and retired members continue to devote their lives to the rail industry and improving the American transportation system.

That's an impressive achievement, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing their hard work as the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen celebrates its 150th anniversary. Thank you and congratulations.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, during the period of April 15, 2013 through April 24, 2013, I was unavoidably absent from the following votes as a result of events related to the tragic terrorist bombings in Boston, MA—roll call votes 96, 104, 105, 106, 108, 109, and 110. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on vote 96 on the nomination of Beverly Reid O'Connell of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California; no on vote 104 on Amendment No. 717 to S. 649, the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013; yes on vote 105 on Amendment No. 730 to S. 649, the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act of 2013; yes on vote 106 on the nomination of Derrick Kahala Watson, of Hawaii, to be United States District Judge for the District

of Hawaii; yes on vote 108 on the nomination of Jane Kelly, of Iowa, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; yes on vote 109 on the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell, of West Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and yes on vote 110 on adoption of the Motion to Proceed to S. 743, the Marketplace Fairness Act.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for votes on amendments to the Water Resources Development Act on Tuesday, May 14, 2013, and Wednesday, May 15, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted against amendment No. 868 and amendment 815. I would have voted to in favor of amendment 889.

RETIREMENT OF AIR FORCE SECRETARY MICHAEL DONLEY

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I honor an outstanding leader and public servant. After over 30 years of service to our Nation both in and out of uniform, Secretary Michael Donley is retiring from his current position as Secretary of the U.S. Air Force. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize Secretary Donley's years of service to our great Nation.

Mr. Donley has over 30 years of experience in the national security community, including service in the Senate, White House, and the Pentagon, as well as in the private sector. Mr. Donley served in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 1975 with the XVIIIth Airborne Corps and 5th Special Forces Group, Airborne. He was also a professional staff member on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Donley supported two Presidents and five National Security Advisers during his service at the National Security Council from 1984 to 1989. He conceived and organized the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management, coordinated White House policy on the Goldwater-Nichols DOD Reorganization Act of 1986, and wrote the national security strategy for President Reagan's second term. Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Donley served as the Director of Administration and Management in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Air Force Secretary Michael Donley will retire from public service June 21, after nearly 5 years in the position. Prior to his confirmation as the Secretary of the Air Force, he served as Acting Secretary—making him the longest serving Secretary of the Air Force in the service's history.

Secretary Michael Donley's leadership will be missed throughout the government. I join many past and present members of the Senate Armed Services Committee in my gratitude to Secretary Donley for his outstanding leadership and his unwavering support of servicemembers. Secretary Donley's